

HEIKKILÄ et al  
Appl. No. 09/913,331  
December 10, 2004

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of treating pulp, by which method pulp is discharged from a process apparatus and fed into a blow tank or storage tank, wherein the method comprises:

discharging pulp from the process apparatus and feeding the pulp to the blow tank or storage tank, wherein the pulp being fed is of varying consistency;

feeding the pulp either to an upper part of the tank or to a lower part of the tank depending on a consistency of the pulp being fed from said process apparatus in such a manner that when the pulp is at a consistency below a certain predetermined discharge consistency it is fed into said tank through the upper part of the tank when pulp is at a consistency above said predetermined discharge consistency is fed into said tank through the lower part of the tank.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising controlling the feeding of pulp to the upper part and lower part of the tank by a consistency detector arranged in a discharge tube of said process apparatus.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said consistency detector is a blow pump.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said process apparatus is a batch digester.

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5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the feeding of pulp is controlled according to a pre-determined consistency profile.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said predetermined consistency profile varies as a function of time, and whereby said feeding of pulp is controlled based on time passed from a beginning of an operation of the digester discharge.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the feeding of pulp through the upper part of the tank is distributed onto a whole cross section of the tank.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the feeding of pulp through the upper part of the tank is distributed on top of pulp in the tank.

9 to 16 (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method of treating pulp, by which method pulp is discharged from a process apparatus and fed into a blow tank or storage tank, wherein the method comprises:

discharging pulp from the process apparatus and feeding the pulp to the blow tank or storage tank, wherein a consistency of the pulp changes in time;

feeding the pulp either to an upper part of the tank or to a lower part of the tank depending on the consistency of the pulp being fed from said process apparatus in such a manner that when the pulp is at a consistency below a certain predetermined discharge consistency it is fed into said tank through the upper part of the tank when pulp is at a

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consistency above said predetermined discharge consistency is fed into said tank through the lower part of the tank.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, further comprising controlling the feeding of pulp to the upper part and lower part of the tank by a consistency detector arranged in a discharge tube of said process apparatus.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein said consistency detector is a blow pump.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said process apparatus is a batch digester.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the feeding of pulp is controlled according to a pre-determined consistency profile.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein said predetermined consistency profile varies as a function of time, and whereby said feeding of pulp is controlled based on time passed from a beginning of an operation of the digester discharge.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the feeding of pulp through the upper part of the tank is distributed onto a whole cross section of the tank.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the feeding of pulp through the upper part of the tank is distributed on top of pulp in the tank.

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25. (Currently Amended) A method of treating pulp, by which method pulp is discharged from a process apparatus and fed to a blow tank or storage tank, wherein the method comprises:

discharging pulp from the process apparatus and feeding the pulp to the blow tank or storage tank, wherein the pulp being fed at various times during the method has a dilute consistency and a condensed thick consistency;

feeding the pulp either to an upper part of the tank or to a lower part of the tank depending on a consistency of the pulp being fed from said process apparatus such that the pulp at the dilute consistency it is fed to the upper part of the tank and pulp at the condensed thick consistency it is fed to the lower part of the tank.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 25 wherein the dilute consistency is a pulp consistency below a predetermined consistency and said condensed thick consistency is above the predetermined consistency.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, further comprising controlling the feeding of pulp to the upper part and the lower part of the tank by a consistency detector arranged in a discharge tube of said process apparatus.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein said consistency detector is a blow pump.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein said process apparatus is a batch digester.

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30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the feeding of pulp to either the upper part or the lower part of the tank is controlled according to a pre-determined consistency profile of the pulp.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein said predetermined consistency profile varies as a function of time, and whereby said feeding of pulp is controlled based on time passed from a beginning of an operation of a digester discharge.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the feeding of pulp through the upper part of the tank is distributed over a cross section of the tank.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the feeding of pulp through the upper part of the tank is distributed over a top of the pulp in the tank.